



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 70, and 127, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A surgical instrument for scraping bone comprising:
a generally planar unitary blade member having a first end and a second end separated by a middle section intermediate the first end and the second end of the blade, the first end having a cutting edge and an opening to allow bone shavings to pass therethrough and the middle section having at least one outwardly extending lobe;
a collection chamber for holding accumulated bone shavings having a bottom, sidewalls, and an end wall, the chamber having a upstanding retainer member for securing the at least one lobe of the blade to the collection chamber, wherein the second end includes a stop mechanism to restrict linear travel of the blade relative to the collection chamber in the direction of the end wall; and

an elongated handle portion coupled to the end wall of the collection chamber.

Claims 2-52 (cancelled).

Claim 53 (original): A surgical instrument for scraping bone comprising:
a generally planar blade having a first end and a second end separated by a middle section, the first end having a cutting edge and an opening to allow bone shavings to pass therethrough and the middle section having at least one outwardly extending lobe, and the second end comprising a pair of cantilevered spring elements;

a collection chamber for holding accumulated bone shavings having a bottom, sidewalls, and an end wall, the chamber having a upstanding retainer member for securing the

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at least one lobe of the blade to the collection chamber, and a retaining mechanism for interacting with the blade spring elements; and

an elongated handle portion coupled to the end wall of the collection chamber.

Claims 54-69 (cancelled).

Claim 70 (currently amended): An unitary blade for a bone scraping surgical instrument comprising:

a first end and a second end separated by a middle section intermediate the first end and the second end of the blade, the first end having a cutting edge and an opening to allow bone shavings to pass therethrough and the middle section having a pair of outwardly extending lobes disposed on either side of a centrally located elongated opening, wherein the second end has a stop mechanism that works in concert with the outwardly extending lobes to limit linear ~~travel~~ movement of the blade when coupled to a cooperating collection chamber.

Claims 71-85 (cancelled).

Claim 86 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the elongated handle portion is flexibly secured to the end wall.

Claim 87 (cancelled).

Claim 88 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the elongated handle portion is flexibly secured to the end wall.

Claim 89 (cancelled).

Claim 90 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber comprises a mixing area for mixing the bone shavings, blood and other constituent graft materials.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1,

wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a bridge of reduced mechanical strength.

Claim 92 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a flexible or bendable joint.

Claim 93 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a polymeric material or stainless steel.

Claim 94 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a medical grade plastic.

Claim 95 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a transparent or translucent plastic material.

Claim 96 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a bridge of reduced mechanical strength which allows the cutting edge to be positioned at a range of angles relative to a longitudinal axis of the handle portion.

Claim 97 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the blade comprises stainless steel or monocrystalline sapphire.

Claim 98 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the blade includes a pair of opposing lobes.

Claim 99 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the blade includes a pair of opposing lobes which are disposed adjacent an elongated longitudinal slot.

Claim 100 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the middle section of the blade includes an elongated longitudinal slot adjacent the at least one outwardly extending lobe.

Claim 101 (cancelled).

Claim 102 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the elongated handle portion is coupled to the end wall of the collection chamber through a ball and socket joint.

Claim 103 (cancelled).

Claim 104 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the second end includes a protrusion for facilitating extraction of the blade from the collection chamber.

Claim 105 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the second end includes an opening through which a prying device may be inserted to facilitate extraction of the blade from the collection chamber.

Claim 106 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the upstanding retainer mechanism includes a first cam surface, a second cam surface and a ledge portion, wherein the ledge portion help to maintain at least a portion of the blade in contact with a top surface of the collection chamber.

Claim 107 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 106, wherein the ledge portion is spaced from the top surface approximately the thickness of the blade.

Claim 108 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the side walls of the collection chamber support the first end of the blade in the instrument.

Claim 109 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the collection chamber further includes a stabilizing member to restrict rotational movement of the blade in the instrument.

Claim 110 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the upstanding retainer mechanism comprises a first cam surface, a second cam surface and a ledge portion, and the first cam surface applies a first compressive force on the at least one lobe when a second compressive force is applied to the second end of the blade, wherein the first compressive force urges the at least one lobe to be displaced toward a centerline of the blade, and the blade comprises an elongated slot along the centerline and the at least one lobe extends into the slot when the first compressive force is applied.

Claim 111 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the blade includes a pair of cantilevered spring elements adjacent its proximal end, wherein the cantilevered spring elements form tension cam surfaces for engaging with a follower pin on the collection chamber, and wherein the follower pin is formed of a material harder than the blade material.

Claim 112 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber comprises a mixing area for mixing the bone shavings, blood and other constituent graft materials.

Claim 113 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a bridge of reduced mechanical strength.

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Claim 114 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a flexible or bendable joint.

Claim 115 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a polymeric material or stainless steel.

Claim 116 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a medical grade plastic.

Claim 117 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber is formed of a transparent or translucent plastic material.

Claim 118 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the collection chamber and the elongated handle portion are coupled by a bridge of reduced mechanical strength which allows the cutting edge to be positioned at a range of angles relative to a longitudinal axis of the handle portion.

Claim 119 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the blade is formed of a stainless steel or monocrystalline sapphire.

Claim 120 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the middle section of the blade includes a pair of opposing lobes.

Claim 121 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the blade includes a pair of opposing lobes which are disposed adjacent a pair of hold-down tabs formed on the collection chamber.

Claim 122 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the elongated handle portion is coupled to the end wall of the collection chamber through a ball and socket joint.

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Claim 123 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the second end includes a stop mechanism for positioning the blade in the instrument.

Claim 124 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the second end includes a sloped surface for facilitating extraction of the blade from the collection chamber by means of a prying device.

Claim 125 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the retainer mechanism comprises a pin.

Claim 126 (previously presented): The surgical instrument of claim 53, wherein the side walls of the collection chamber support the first end of the blade in the instrument.

Claim 127 (currently amended): The surgical instrument of claim 53, ~~wherein the blade includes a pair of cantilevered spring elements adjacent its proximal end;~~ wherein the cantilevered spring elements form tension cam surfaces for engaging with a follower pin on the collection chamber, and wherein the follower pin is formed of a material harder than the blade material.

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